

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8081

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 CAIRO 11831

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

TO THINK ABOUT NAVAL VISITS. SUCH VISITS, IF CAREFULLY REGULATED, COULD BE HELPFUL TO EGYPT. I SAID I WAS INTERESTED IN HIS VIEWS, BUT FELT WE HAD TO KNOW WHETHER THE PRESIDENT AGREES. TWO DAYS AGO FAHMY VOLUNTEERED TO ME THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH THE PRESIDENT, WHO AGREED WITH FAHMY'S VIEW.

4. FAHMY THEN SUGGESTED THAT, WHILE WE SHOULD NOT RPT NOT SCHEDULE NAVAL VISITS ON A STRICT TIMETABLE BASIS, WE MIGHT SEND A US NAVAL VESSEL TO ALEXANDRIA ONCE EVERY TWO OR THREE MONTHS. WITH THE PRESIDENT'S APPROVAL, HE HAD SPOKEN TO GAMASY ABOUT THIS AND GAMASY HAD UNDERTAKEN TO SO INFORM ZIKRY. IF WE WISH TO MAKE SUCH ARRANGEMENTS, WE WERE FREE TO DO SO UTILIZING NORMAL GOE NAVAL VISIT REQUEST PROCEDURES.

5. RECOMMENDATION: INASMUCH AS THE POLITICAL SITUATION HAS CHANGED SINCE APRIL, 1974 AND THE EGYPTIANS THEMSELVES SEEM TO BELIEVE THAT OCCASIONAL NAVAL VISITS MIGHT BE HELPFUL, YOU MAY WISH TO RECONSIDER THE PREVIOUSLY STIPULATED POLICY AND ALLOW SUCH OCCASIONAL NAVAL VISITS. I HAVE SAID NOTHING TO THE US NAVY ABOUT THIS PENDING YOUR VIEWS. I AM CONFIDENT THAT I CAN CONTROL THE NUMBER FROM HERE AND LIMIT IT OT, SAY, FOUR OR FIVE A YEAR BY WORKING WITH FAHMY, GAMASY AND ZIKRY ON THIS MATTER. EVERY SUCH VISIT REQUIRES
SECRET

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CHIEF OF MISSION'S ADVANCE APPROVAL BEFORE REQUEST IS EVEN MADE TO GOE. SUCH VISITS MIGHT EVEN BE HELPFUL WITH CONGRESS IF EGYPT IS KNOWN TO BE EXTENDING OCCASIONAL HOSPITALITY TO SIXTH FLEET VESSELS AND

PERSONNEL. IF YOU APPROVE, I WOULD PROPOSE TO
COMMUNICATE WITH CINCUSNAVEUR TO LAY DOWN THE GUIDE-
LINES ON NUMBERS, PERIODICITY AND PROCEDURES FOR SUCH
LIMITED NAVAL VISITS. I HAVE FOUND ADMIRAL BAGLEY AND HIS
PREDECESSORS UNDERSTANDING AND HELPFUL IN WORKING WITH THE
EMBASSY ON OPERATIONS INVOLVING PAST EGYPTIAN-US NAVAL
COOPERATION AND AM SURE HE WILL COMPLY. PLEASE LET ME
HAVE YOUR VIEWS.
EILTS

SECRET

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